

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 32-46 and 48, cancel claim 47 and add claim 59 as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 - 31. (Cancelled).

32. (Currently amended) An element for protection against forgery or copying, including:

an optical ~~Optical~~ component comprising at least two layers, one layer being a structured retarder and the other layer being a polarizer, wherein the polarizer is a circular polarizer; and

an external linear or circular polarizer for analyzing encoded information.

33. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 32, wherein the retarder is structured by a structure of the optical delay.

34. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 32, wherein the retarder is structured by having at least two regions with different optical axis.

35. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 32, 33 or 34, wherein the retarder comprises an anisotropic layer comprising cross-linked liquid crystal monomers.

36. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 32, wherein two circular polarizers are arranged one above the other, one of which rotates to the left and the other of which rotates to the right.

37. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 32, wherein for the circular polarizer a cholesteric layer is used.

38. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 36, wherein for the circular polarizers cholesteric layers are used.

39. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 38, wherein the two cholesteric layers, one of which rotates to the left and the other of which rotates to the right, have reflection bands with maxima which lie in different wavelength ranges.

40. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 37, wherein it additionally comprises a linear polarizer.

41. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 38, wherein it additionally comprises a linear polarizer.

42. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 40, characterized in that the cholesteric layer and the structured retarder are on the same side of the linear polarizer.

43. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 41, characterized in that the cholesteric layer and the structured retarder are on the same side of the linear polarizer.

44. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polarizer is in contact with the cholesteric layer.

45. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polarizer is in contact with the structured retarder.

46. (Currently amended) The element ~~Optical component~~ according to Claim 40, the linear polarizer being arranged on a substrate, wherein the cholesteric layer is in contact with the linear polarizer, and an orientation layer is placed on the cholesteric layer, and an optically anisotropic layer of cross-linked liquid crystal monomers, which forms regions with different molecular orientations, is placed on the orientation layer.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently amended) An element ~~Device~~ for protection against forgery or copying, characterized in that an element according to claim ~~[[47]]~~ 32 and a linear or circular polarizer are arranged on the same substrate.

49. (Withdrawn) An optical component comprising an optically anisotropic layer which is formed by liquid-crystal molecules, wherein the optically anisotropic layer contains fluorescent molecules.

50. (Withdrawn) An optical component according to Claim 49, wherein the optically anisotropic layer has at least two regions with different optical axes.

51. (Withdrawn) An element for protection against forgery or copying comprising an optical component comprising an optically anisotropic layer which is formed by liquid-crystal molecules, wherein the optically anisotropic layer contains fluorescent molecules.

52. (Withdrawn) An optical component, containing a birefringent liquid-crystal

layer which has at least two regions with different optical axes, wherein an optical delay of the liquid-crystal layer in the individual regions depends differently on an angle of observation.

53. (Withdrawn) An optical component according to Claim 52, wherein a color of the element on observation through a polarizer differs locally.

54. (Withdrawn) An optical component according to Claim 52, characterized in that it is biaxial.

55. (Withdrawn) An optical component according to claim 54, wherein the birefringent liquid-crystal layer is biaxial.

56. (Withdrawn) An element for protection against forgery or copying comprising an optical component comprising a birefringent liquid-crystal layer which has at least two regions with different optical axes, wherein an optical delay of the liquid-crystal layer in the individual regions depends differently on an angle of observation.

57. (Withdrawn) An element for protection against forgery or copying, being arranged on a substrate and comprising an optical anisotropic layer which has at least two regions with different optical axes, wherein the substrate is a reflective polarizer.

58. (Withdrawn) A device for protection against forgery or copying comprising an element and an analyzer, wherein the analyzer and the element are arranged on a single substrate.

59. (New) The element according to Claim 32, wherein information is encoded in at least one of said layers.